

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended, claim 11 has been canceled and subject matter thereof has been added to claim 1 and claims 19 to 21 have been added. Claims 1 to 10 and 19 to 21 are now active in this application.

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Curtin (U.S. 5,887,312). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 now requires that the clamping structure defining the cavity for receiving the squeegee blade further define relief spaces disposed therein to accommodate expansive distortion of the squeegee blade into the relief spaces when secured by the clamping structure. No such structure is taught or suggested by Curtin either alone or in the combination as claimed.

Claims 2, 3, 5 to 8 and 19 to 21 depend from claim 1 and therefore define patentably over Curtin for at least the reasons stated above with regard to claim 1.

In addition, claim 19 further defines patentably over Curtin by requiring that the relief spaces be disposed at a pair of opposing corners of the squeegee blade. No such structure is taught or suggested by Curtin.

Claims 20 and 21 further limit claims 1 and 19 by requiring that the relief spaces extend along the entire length of the squeegee blade. No such structure is taught or suggested by Curtin.

Claims 1 to 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato (U.S. 6,272,984). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons as stated above with regard to the rejection under Curtin.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of deVries (U.S. 5,047,262). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons stated above with respect to the rejection on Curtin since claim 10 depends from claim 1 and deVries in no way overcomes the deficiencies of Kato.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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